

OGC 61-0370

561-0776

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

DOC	14	REV DATE	22 Apr 80	BY	025251
ORIG COMP	31	OPI	31	TYPE	02
ORIG CLASS	S	PAGES	3	REV CLASS	S
JUST	22	NEXT REV	2010	AUTH	HR 10-2

Executive Registry
61-2238

7 MAR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Security Clearance of Congressional Employees

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for action by the Director of Central Intelligence. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 5.

2. A number of requests have been received from the Office of the General Counsel for security clearances on members of the staff of individual Congressmen and staffs of various Congressional Committees and Sub-Committees. Security clearances on these persons are considered necessary because of the disclosure to them of Secret and Top Secret information.

3. In view of the delicate nature of the problem which involves Executive-Legislative Branch relationships, we have refrained from proposing a formal security clearance program and have attempted to use Department of Defense clearances on these persons whenever possible. We now have, however, a number of such cases on which security clearances are needed but on which the Department of Defense has no clearance in process.


4. The Department of Defense handles the matter of clearance of these persons on the matter-of-fact basis that if access to classified Defense information is required, the individual must first have a Defense clearance. Through Defense Legislative Liaison, Defense security questionnaires are obtained from these people and turned over to the Security Office in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

5. It is recommended that the following procedure and policy be adopted regarding clearances of employees of Congressmen and Congressional Committees and Sub-Committees:

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- a. Whenever possible, CIA security clearances will be granted on the basis of existing or prior Defense clearances or information already in CIA files;
- b. When no information is available on which a CIA security clearance can be granted, the CIA Legislative Liaison will arrange for DD Form 398 (copy attached) to be obtained from the employee involved for forwarding to the Department of Defense. When going to Department of Defense cannot be justified or would otherwise be out of order, the Legislative Liaison will obtain the form and refer it to the Director of Security of CIA.


  
Sheffield Edwards  
Director of Security

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CONCURRENCES:

  
Deputy Director (Support)


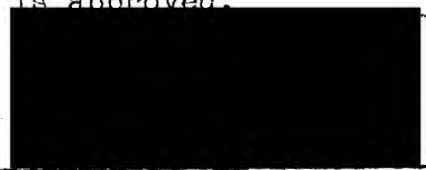
17 Mar 61  
Date

  
General Counsel

14 Mar. 1961  
Date

The recommendation in paragraph 5 is approved.

5 APR 1961

  
  
ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director of Central Intelligence

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